

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2701

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

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AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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UNCLAS LUANDA 0439

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT AO

SUBJECT: LUANDA NEWSMAN'S CONTACTS WITH LIBERATION GROUP
REPRESENTATIVES IN LUSAKA

1. LUIZ RODRIGUES, REPRESENTING LUANDA'S DAILY "A PROVINCIA," COVERED MEETING IN LUSAKA BETWEEN PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER SOARES AND FRELIMO. WHILE IN LUSAKA RODRIGUES INTERVIEWED OFFICIALS OF BOTH FACTIONS OF MPLA, AND UNITA. HIS REPORTS APPEARING AS FRONT PAGE FEATURE STORIES CONTAIN FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

A. MPLA SPLIT: NETO CAUGHT IN CROSS-FIRE BETWEEN CHIPENDA FACTION AND "GROUP OF 19" THAT RECENTLY ISSUED MANIFESTO TAKING NETO TO TASK FOR ERRORS IN JUDGMENT, LEADERSHIP AND PLANNING (LUANDA 0421). CHIPENDA CLAIMS NETO FAVORS MESTIZOS AND PEOPLE FROM NORTHERN ANGOLA AND USES BLACKS AS "CANNON FODDER." THE REPLY FROM NETO'S FACTION IS TO BRAND CHIPENDA A "TRIBALIST," OPPORTUNIST AND NEO-COLONIALIST WHO IS INVOLVED IN INTRIGUES WITH A FOREIGN POWER (READ ZAMBIA). THE "GROUP OF 19" ACCORDING

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TO SAME NETO SUPPORTERS IS "LACKEY OF MOSCOW." TRUCKING WITH FNLA

AND RADICAL, NON-DEMOCRATIC. CHIPENDA AND UNITA'S SAVIMBI REPORTEDLY WERE PLANNING TO UNITE AND FORM NEW MOVEMENT, "PARTIDO REVOLUCIONARIO CAMPONES DE ANGOLA" (REVOLUTIONARY PEASANTS PARTY OF ANGOLA) (PRCA), WITH CHIPENDA AS PRESIDENT AND SAVIMBI AS VICE PRESIDENT, BUT PROGRESS TOWARDS THIS GOAL APPARENTLY CUT SHORT BY COUP.

B. UNITA'S ROLE: SPOKESMAN FOR UNITA, DR ANTONIO NICOLAU (AKA VAKULUKUTA) WHO DID NOT HAVE TO CONTEND WITH COUNTER-CLAIMS BY RIVAL FACTIONS AS DID THE TWO MPLA GROUPS, MADE POINT THAT UNITA NOT TRIBALISTIC. HE PONTED OUT MEMBERS OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE COME FROM VARIOUS REGIONS IN ANGOLA, INCLUDING CABINDA. STATED THEY WERE "NOT AGAINST A WHITE PRESENCE" BUT THAT, TO THE CONTRARY, THEY WELL UNDERSTAND THAT THE FUTURE PROGRESS OF ANGOLA DEPENDS ON WHITE PRESENCE, EXPERTISE AND CAPITAL. HE ADDED THIS WOULD NOT BE JUST FOR A TRANSITIONAL PHASE, BUT PERMANENT. UNITA IS WILLING, HE DECLARED, TO MEET SOARES IN EUROPE, LUANDA OR NEUTRAL TERRITORY, BUT IF THEY MET INSIDE ANGOLA, HIS GROUP WOULD ONLY SEND SECOND ECHELON PERSONNEL. THE CEASE-FIRE PRESENTLY BEING OBSERVED BY UNITA IS A "GESTURE IN RESPONSE" TO THE OPENING OFFERED BY GEN COSTA GOMES. HE CONCLUDED BY RECITIING WHAT IS BECOMING UNITA'S LITANY: THEY HAVE FOUGHT AND SURVIVED ALONE, INSIDE ANGOLA, CUT OFF FROM THE WORLD WITH NO HELP FROM BLACK AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND ONLY IDEOLOGICAL SUPPORT FROM THE CHINESE - BUT NO ARMS, FROM ANY SOURCE.

2. COMMENT: EFFECT OF ARTICLES, OTHER THAN TO FAMILIARIZE READERS WITH INSURGENT MOVEMENTS AND THEIR PROGRAMS, IS TO PRESENT REBEL LEADERS AS HUMAN, INTELLIGENT, EDUCATED INDIVIDUALS, NOT ALL OF WHOM ARE NECESSARILY PUPPETS OF FOREIGN IDEOLOGIES AS HERETOFORE DEPICTED (PRE APRIL 25).
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